

Stone Rural District Council.

ECCLESHALL DIVISION.

MARCH, 1907.

GENTLEMEN,

I have again the honour of submitting to your notice my Annual Report on the sanitary conditions of the Eccleshall District for the year 1906.

I have enclosed herewith the Tables required by the Local Government Board.

The Health of the District generally throughout the year was very good, as is evidenced by the low death-rate. With the exception of mumps, which was very prevalent in parts of the District in September and October, there was no epidemic of infectious disease during the year, and no sickness which could be directly attributed to insanitary conditions.

There were 124 births registered during the year, as compared with 128 in the preceding year, and giving a birth-rate of 22·1 per 1,000 of the estimated population. BIRTH-RATE

In estimating the population for the whole district, I have added the total number of births from the middle of the year 1905 to the middle of 1906, and deducted the deaths and also 33 for persons who have migrated out of the district. The average number of persons migrating out of the district between the census of 1891 and 1901 was 66 per annum, and I have allowed half this number. For the separate localities the deductions allowed for migration was as follows, viz.: Eccleshall, 20; Swynnerton, 4; Standon, 1; Chebsey and Cold Norton, 8.

The nett deaths registered at all ages belonging to the district were 64, compared with 72 for the year 1905, and giving a death-rate of 11·4 per 1,000 of the population as compared with 12·8 for the preceding year. The average death-rate for the past ten years was 13·2 per 1,000, at all ages. DEATH-RATE

The infantile mortality was lower than it has been in any preceding year, there was remarkably little sickness amongst young children during the year, and I am inclined to hope that there is a tendency throughout the district to a more rational feeding of infants. The total number of deaths under one year was only six, a decrease of nine upon those of the preceding year, and giving an infantile death-rate of 48·3 per 1,000 of registered births, as compared with 117 per 1,000 for the year 1905. INFANTILE MORTALITY

In each locality the number of births and deaths, and the rates per 1,000 of the estimated populations were as follows:— ECCLESHALL, estimated population 3,807; births 78, rate per 1,000, 23; deaths, 47, rate per 1,000, 12; infant death-rate 56. SWYNNERTON estimated population 805; births 19, rate per 1,000, 23; deaths 3, rate per 1,000, 3·7; infant death-rate 58·8. STANDON, estimated population 423; births 8, rate per 1,000, 18; deaths 3; rate per 1,000, 7; infant death-rate 158. CHEBSEY AND COLD NORTON, estimated population 575; births 12, rate per 1,000, 20; deaths 11, rate per 1,000, 19; no infant deaths.

ZYMOTIC
DEATH-RATE

There was only one death under this heading during the year, that was due to Epidemic Diarrhœa. The Zymotic death-rate was ·17 per 1,000, as compared with ·53 for the year 1905. The following table gives the comparative figures for the past ten years.

Table I.

Years.	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906
Deaths registered at all ages.	3	5	5	5	6	1	1	2	3	1
Rate per 1,000 of the population.	·40	·81	·80	·70	1·0	·17	·17	·35	·53	·17

VACCINATION.

The following table shews the results of Vaccination in the district from the middle of 1905 to the middle of 1906.

Table II.

Two Vaccination Districts.	No. of Births	Successfully Vaccinated	Died Unvaccinated	Postponed	Insusceptible to Vaccination	Left District Unvaccinated	Conscientious Objectors	Still Unvaccinated
Eccleshall and Swynnerton.	106	98	6	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil

Notifications

There were only five notifications received under the Infectious Diseases Notification Act, during the whole year; compared with twelve in the preceding year. Of these, three were due to scarlet fever and two to erysipelas.

SCARLET
FEVER

There was no epidemic of this disease. The three cases were entirely separate from one another, and occurred at considerable intervals. One was at Rue Barn Cottages in June, the source of infection could not be traced. The second case was at Walton Hurst, far away from the first case, in August, and the source of infection could not be traced. The third case was at Cotes Bank in October, the source of infection was traced to a case outside the district. Each of the cases was treated at home and well isolated. The sick rooms were disinfected by fumigation with sulphur.

ERYSIPELAS

Two cases, one at Chebsey and one at Garmelow. There were no sanitary defects in either case to account for the disease.

EPIDEMIC
DIARRHŒA

This disease was prevalent in September, especially amongst young children at Mill Meece, where the fatal case occurred.

There were four deaths registered as being due to Pulmonary PHTHISIS Phthisis, compared with three in 1905. This gives a Phthisis death-rate of 71 per 1,000 of the population.

Five deaths were registered uncertified, giving a death-rate of UNCERTIFIED DEATHS 89 per 1,000 of the population.

The area of the Eccleshall District, which at the last census GENERAL was 33,038, has not changed. Being almost entirely rural, and the land well cultivated, the chief occupation of the inhabitants is agriculture, that its influence on the public health is good is shewn, I think, by the large proportion of deaths occurring in persons over 65 years of age. Of the total number of deaths, viz. 64, 28 were in persons whose ages ranged between 65 and 93 years, and 11 whose ages were from 60 to 65.

The dwelling houses of the labouring classes are generally un- House Accom'dation satisfactory, being old, small and badly ventilated. Where new cottages have been built there is much improvement, though there are no building bye-laws adopted, which I think is a mistake. Only three new houses were built, to my knowledge, during the year, two were villas and one a cottage. Only one case of overcrowding had to be dealt with, at Shallowford, and this was abated. One unclean house at Yarnfield was improved and one dilapidated house at Walk Mill repaired. There were no prosecutions under the Housing of the Working Classes Act.

One carcase of diseased beef (tuberculosis) was seized at Croxton, and condemned by a magistrate. The butcher was not prosecuted as he reported the case himself.

There is no regular system of drainage at present in any part of the district. For excrement disposal the old method of privy cesspit SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE is general. There is no public scavenging, each occupier having to remove his own refuse. Many minor improvements in privy accommodation and house drainage have been effected. The open drain in the Eccleshall Castle meadow was, as usual, cleansed out in the month of March. With regard to pollution of rivers and streams in the district, where farms are situated near these, the sewage from the farmyard often finds its way into them.

Throughout the district generally, the water supply is from WATER SUPPLY private wells, and its sufficiency and wholesomeness on the whole is fairly good. Much attention has been devoted to this subject during the year. At Yarnfield the water was found defective in several wells, and notices were served on the owners, with one exception the wells were cleansed and protected, and the quality of the supply much improved. Also in Chebsey Parish, in three cases where the supply was particularly bad, new wells have been sunk and a wholesome and sufficient supply provided. At Mill Meece, the supply to seven or eight houses has been defective for some months, through the pump being out of repair, and though numerous notices have been served on the owners, nothing has yet been done. Many parts of Swynnerton, Cotes Heath and Bowers, in the neighbourhood of the Potteries Co. Water Works at Hatton, have an excellent supply from that source.

Places over which your Council have supervision :—Two common lodging houses, seven slaughter houses, eight bakehouses, sixty-one dairies, cowsheds and milkshops, eight workshops. These have been periodically visited and inspected.

SCHOOLS

The sanitary conditions and water supply of the public elementary schools in the district have not called for any action on the part of your Council during the year. The schools at Offley Hay had to be closed for twenty-one days in October, on account of the epidemic of mumps, 30 scholars out of a register of 83, being away with the disease. This was the only case of school closure during the year.

FACTORY AND
WORKSHOP
ACT

The table supplied by the Local Government Board is enclosed herewith. Of the sixteen premises in the district registered under this act, eight are bakehouses, six dress-making and tailoring, and two shoemaking. They have been periodically inspected, and with two exceptions, found in a satisfactory sanitary condition. The two exceptions were, want of cleanliness in bakehouses, the defects being remedied on notices being served on the owners by your sanitary Inspector. There were no prosecutions.

SANITARY
INSPECTOR'S
REPORT

From your Sanitary Inspector's report :—Dwelling-houses. Formal notices were issued in four cases, one for foul conditions, two for structural defects, and one for overcrowding, and in each case the nuisance was abated. Two common lodging houses, 61 dairies, milkshops and cow-sheds, eight bakehouses, seven slaughter-houses were periodically inspected; formal notices for nuisances in cowsheds were issued in nine cases, and in seven of these the nuisances were abated. Defects in ashpits and privies were found in 25 cases, eight informal and 17 formal notices were issued, and in 23 of these the nuisances were abated. In deposits of refuse and manure, 73 defects were found, 32 informal and 41 formal notices were issued, and as a result in 71 cases the nuisances were abated. In house drainage 25 defects were found, six informal and 19 formal notices were issued, and in 21 cases the nuisances were abated. In water supply 12 defects were found, five informal and seven formal notices were issued, and in 10 cases the defects were remedied. Defects in pigsties were found in nine cases, five informal and four formal notices were issued, with the result that in each case the nuisance was abated. Out of all the inspections made, a total of 162 defects were found, 61 informal notices were issued and in each case the nuisance was abated, and out of 101 formal notices, in 89 cases the nuisances were abated. One carcase of beef was seized. Three samples of drinking water were taken for analysis and condemned in each case as unfit for use. Two dwelling houses were disinfected after infectious disease.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HOPE WILKES GOSSE,

M.O.H.